

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, SC, CB, GW

SUBJECT: SIHANOUK'S VIEWS ON CAMBODIA AND THE UN

REFS: (A) STATE 165852

(B) STATE 165853

1. EMBOFF MET WITH BERENDONCK AUGUST 2 TO BRIEF HIM ON CAMBODIAN DEVELOPMENTS PER REFTEL (B) AND TO INFORM HIM OF DEPARTMENT'S REACTION (REFTEL A) TO SIHANOUK'S THOUGHTS ON CAMBODIA AND THE UN.

2. BERENDONCK EXPRESSED GREAT APPRECIATION FOR THE BRIEFING. HE COMMENTED ON THE SIHANOUK/UN MATTER AS FOLLOWS:

(A) SIHANOUK'S THINKING IS EVIDENTLY IN A FAIRLY EARLY STAGE OF FORMULATION AND MANY DETAILS WOULD HAVE TO BE THOUGHT THROUGH IF HIS SCHEME WERE TO BE USED. UNTIL THIS WAS DONE, ONE COULD NOT BE SURE OF ITS PRACTICABILITY.

(B) WITH REGARD TO THE OBJECTION PUT FORWARD IN THE FIRST TWO SENTENCES OF PARA 2 OF REFTEL (A), BERENDONCK INTERPRETED SIHANOUK TO MEAN THAT THE VACATING OF CAMBODIA'S UN SEAT AND THE INTRODUCTION OF THE UNSYG AS AN INTERMEDIARY WOULD HAVE TO BE AGREED

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UPON IN ADVANCE AS PARTS OF A SINGLE PACKAGE. IF THE

SEAT VACATED BY THE GKR WERE QUICKLY FILLED BY GRUNK AND ITS SUPPORTERS, THIS WOULD CREATE THE VERY SITUATION SIHANOUK WISHED TO AVOID.

(C) ONE OF THE OBVIOUS UNCERTAINTIES OF THE PROPOSAL WAS WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CONTROL GRUNK SUPPORTERS IN THE UNGA EVEN IF AGREEMENT ON A PACKAGE ARRANGEMENT COULD BE REACHED BETWEEN THE CONTENDING SIDES AND OTHER STATES INTERESTED IN A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. IT WOULD IN ANY EVENT REQUIRE A BROAD-GUAGED DIPLOMATIC EFFORT.

(D) AS BERENDONCK INTERPRETED IT, SIHANOUK'S THINKING WAS INDEED AIMED AT FINDING A WAY OF INVOLVING THE UNSYG AS AN INTERMEDIARY IN THE PROCESS OF BEGINNING NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT HOPELESSLY COMPROMISING HIS OWN POSITION WITHIN GRUNK. BERENDONCK SAID HE WAS VERY ENCOURAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT THAT IT WOULD "CAREFULLY AND SYMPATHETICALLY CONSIDER SUCH A SUGGESTION."

(E) BERENDONCK STRESSED AGAIN HIS VIEW THAT IT IS SIHANOUK'S RELATIVE WEAKNESS WITHIN GRUNK (VIS-A-VIS THE MORE RADICAL ELEMENTS OF THE MOVEMENT) WHICH NOT ONLY MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO ACCEPT THE GKR'S JULY 9 PROPOSAL BUT WHICH ALSO FORCES HIM TO ACT THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES EVEN IN THE PROCESS OF TRYING TO INVOLVE THE UNSYG AS AN INTERMEDIARY.

3. BERENDONCK OBSERVED THAT THE FRG EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS NOT YET BEEN BROUGHT INTO THIS EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND INDICATED THAT HE MAY IN THE NEAR FUTURE INSTRUCT THE EMBASSY TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER WITH THE DEPARTMENT. HE HAS OBVIOUSLY (AS NOTED ABOVE) TAKEN SOME ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE FACT THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS NOT OPPOSED TO INVOLVEMENT OF THE UNSYG IN BRINGING ABOUT THE START OF NEGOTIATIONS, IF THIS CAN BE DONE ON SATISFACTORY TERMS.

4. WITH REFERENCE TO STATE 166930 PARA 1, WE WOULD NOTE THAT GERMAN POSITION ON CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION HAS NOT BEEN ONE OF UNQUALIFIED, OUTRIGHT SUPPORT FOR GKR, AS SCHAUER IMPLIED. PREFERRED FRG POSITION, SINCE IT HAS NO RELATIONS WITH CAMBODIA, IS TO ABSTAIN. IN A
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DISCUSSION LAST YEAR WITH FONOFF, BERENDONCK TOLD US FRG WOULD SUPPORT GKR IF VOTE SO CLOSE AS TO MAKE FRG DECISION DECISIVE. IN THE EVENT, GERMANS WERE GREATLY RELIEVED AT DECISION TO POSTPONE ISSUE.
HILLENBRAND

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